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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/738,319	12/17/2003	Patrick M. Bailey	LENX-0002	7917
27964	7590	11/15/2006	EXAMINER	
HITT GAINES P.C. P.O. BOX 832570 RICHARDSON, TX 75083			NATALINI, JEFF WILLIAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2858	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/738,319

Applicant(s)

BAILEY ET AL.

Examiner

Jeff Natalini

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tury et al. (6087834-previously cited as pertinent prior art).

In regard to claim 1, Tury et al. discloses a centralized connector module (fig 1 element 10) comprising a body having interconnected terminal sets (figure 4, right side of 20 connected to the numbers of the connector) corresponding to components connectable thereacross (figure 4, left side, components being capacitor-34, light-40, inductor-33; see column 2 line 66-67 and also col 4 line 30) and configured to provide terminating points (figure 4, a ground point is provided in the body) for said components during normal operation thereof (when the test module is connected to perform the tests (as figure 4 shows) the internal battery of the tester (Vbatt must provide power to have the components operating normally to properly test continuity- see col 1 line 46 – col 2 line 17 and abstract), said centralized connector module incapable of controlling said components (no control of components is stated in the patent to Tury et al.);

and continuity indicator circuits integrated within said body and associated with some of said terminals sets and configured to indicated continuity faults with respect to connected components (figure 4, col 4 line 66 – col 5 line 13).

Tury et al. lacks specifically stating wherein the body is a dielectric.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the body/module to be a dielectric (made of an insulator) since the module is for testing lighting systems would not be made of a conductor/non-dielectric because it would be dangerous to any user that could be electrocuted if the module was non-dielectric.

In regard to claim 2, Tury et al. discloses wherein at least some of the terminal sets are interconnected in series (figure 4 – numbers of the connector 20- 7/5, 7/3, 1/2 would be considered in series) and said indicator circuits include light emitting diodes (see figure 1, elements 26, 29, 24; figure 4, col 4 line 66 – col 5 line 13).

In regard to claim 7, Tury et al. discloses wherein the terminal sets remain functional upon a failure of any of said continuity indicator circuits (see figure 1 and figure 4, the terminal sets would still continue to connect the components to the module/tester even if indicator circuits malfunctioned).

3. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tury et al. (6087834) in view of Cheek et al. (3728616).

In regard to claims 4 and 6, Tury et al. lacks specifically wherein the continuity circuits have impedances based on illuminating light emitting diodes, wherein voltage indicator circuits are associated with the output terminals sets to indicate an operation of corresponding ones of said components.

Cheek et al. discloses continuity circuits having impedances based on illuminating light emitting diodes (col 3 line 35-41 and line 61- col 4 line 7), wherein voltage indicator circuits are associated with the output terminals sets to indicate an operation of corresponding ones of said components (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Tury et al. to include voltage indicator circuits are associated with output terminals of the components as taught by Cheek et al. in order to test for wiring errors in a plurality of pairs of terminals (abstract) so that it can be determined which particular connections are defective or fine (col 3 line 61 – col 4 line 7).

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tury et al. (6087834) in view of Collier et al. (6323652).

Tury et al. lacks specifically wherein an AC Power In terminal set is associated with a voltage indicator circuit and configured to indicate a presence of a voltage thereacross.

Collier et al. discloses wherein an AC Power In terminal set (provided by an outlet) associated with a voltage indicator circuit and configured to indicate a presence of a voltage thereacross (col 8 line 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Tury et al. to have an AC power in terminal set associated with a voltage indicator circuit as taught by Collier et al. in order to indicate that the level of the power supply is adequate (col 8 line 2-3).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 4-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

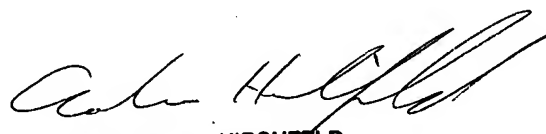
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Natalini whose telephone number is 571-272-2266. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeff Natalini



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800